IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)
	)
Patrick J. NAUGHTON et al.	) Prior Application:
	)
Rule 53(b) Continuation Application	) Group Art Unit: 2173
Serial No. 09/628,300	)
	) Examiner: C. Dela Torre
Filed: Herewith	)
	)
For: GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE	)
FOR DISPLAYING AND	)
NAVIGATING IN A DIRECTED	)
GRAPH STRUCTURE	)

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application

as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 45-54

as follows:

45.   A method of providing an interactive display on a display device in a

network that controls a remote device in the network, the method comprising:

selecting a display object on a device display in the network;

generating, at the display device, a request associated with the selected display

object;

initializing, at the display device, a communications manager that monitors communications with the remote device;

sending the request to the remote device in the network so that a corresponding remote method is invoked;

receiving, at the display device, a reply from the remote device when the communication manager fails to detect communications errors; and

displaying an interactive graphical interface on the display device when the received reply corresponds to the selected display object.

46.   The method of claim 45, further comprising:

analyzing the received reply to determine whether the reply corresponds to the selected display object.

47.   The method of claim 45, further comprising:

adding time to a timer of the communications manager when the remote device requests additional time for sending the reply.

48.   The method of claim 45, wherein monitoring communications with the remote device comprises:

setting a countdown timer to a predetermined value;

resetting the countdown timer to the predetermined value when the countdown timer expires;

monitoring a number of times the countdown timer expires before the reply is received from the remote device; and

terminating communications with the remote device when the number of times the countdown timer expires reaches a predetermined limit.

49.   A method of providing an interactive display associated with a remote device in a network and based on a selected display object on a display device in the network, the method comprising:

initializing a communications manager of the display device;

sending a request from the controller to the remote device;

processing the request at the remote device so that an associated method is invoked;

returning a reply to the display device based on the invoked method when the communications manager maintains a network connection with the remote device; and

displaying, on the display device, a graphical interface associated with the returned reply.

50.   The method of claim 49, further comprising:

analyzing the returned reply to determine whether the reply corresponds to the selected display object.

51.   The method of claim 50, wherein maintaining a network connection further comprises:

setting a countdown timer of the communications manager to a predetermined value;

resetting the countdown timer to the predetermined value when the countdown timer expires;

adding additional time to the countdown timer when the remote device requests additional time for sending the reply; and

monitoring a number of times the countdown timer expires before the reply is received from the remote device.

52.   A computer readable medium including instructions for directing a display device in a network to perform a method of providing an interactive graphical display based on a selected display object, said instructions comprising:

a module for generating a request associated with the selected display object;

a module for initializing a communication manager so that communication errors are detected;

a module for sending the generated request to a remote device in the network;

a module for receiving a reply from the remote device when no communication errors are detected; and

a module for displaying the interactive graphical display when the reply corresponds to the selected display object.

53.   The computer readable medium instructions of claim 52, further comprising:

a module for analyzing the received reply to determine whether the reply corresponds to the selected display object.

54.   The computer readable medium instructions of claim 52, further comprising:

a module for setting a countdown timer to a predetermined value;

a module for resetting the countdown timer to the predetermined value when the countdown timer expires;

a module for monitoring a number of times the countdown time expires before the reply is received from the remote device; and

a module for terminating communications with the remote device when the number of times the countdown timer expires meets a predetermined limit.

REMARKS

This application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of U.S. Patent Application 09/628,300 filed July 28, 2000. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and claims 45-54 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and allow this application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 23, 2002 By: _Robert J. Ortell_ Reg. No 24,014
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